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Mission for U.S. by Tafoya reported

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Two U.S.-issued passports show that accused hit man Eugene Tafoya traveled to Central America in the 1970s on assignment for the United States, informed sources have told the Rocky Mountain News.

Private citizens are issued green passports, while government employees on official business carry red ones like two found in Tafoya's apartment in April. He is charged with attempted murder in the shooting of a Libyan dissident in Fort Collins.

Tafoya was a member of the Green Berets at the time of his trip. He apparently went south of the border under auspices of the Army, perhaps on training missions, the sources said. Stamps for entry into Honduras and Costa Rica were in the passports, they said.

Discovery of the red passports was common knowledge but until Thursday their authenticity and what countries they were used to enter hadn't been disclosed.

The informed sources said they are legitimate and were used to enter various Latin American countries, including Costa Rica and Honduras.

The passports could be used by the defense in Tafoya's upcoming trial to show he had gone on missions for the government in the past, and, therefore, it could reasonably be believed he would be sent on other missions by the government.

Tafoya has said he thought he was working for the CIA when he met, struggled with and eventually shot the Libyan dissident, Faisal Zagallai. Tafoya told reporters he was carrying a CIA message to Zagallai, but ended up shooting him in self-defense.

The CIA has denied that Tafoya worked for the agency, and Tafoya reluctantly conceded that former CIA-operative Edwin P. Wilson may have actually issued the orders. Tafoya worked for Wilson in Libya.

His defense attorneys late Thursday appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court a Fort Collins judge's ruling that prevents Tafoya from pleading insanity. The appeal claims testimony at a Monday hearing shows Tafoya should be allowed to change his plea from not guilty to not guilty by reason of insanity.